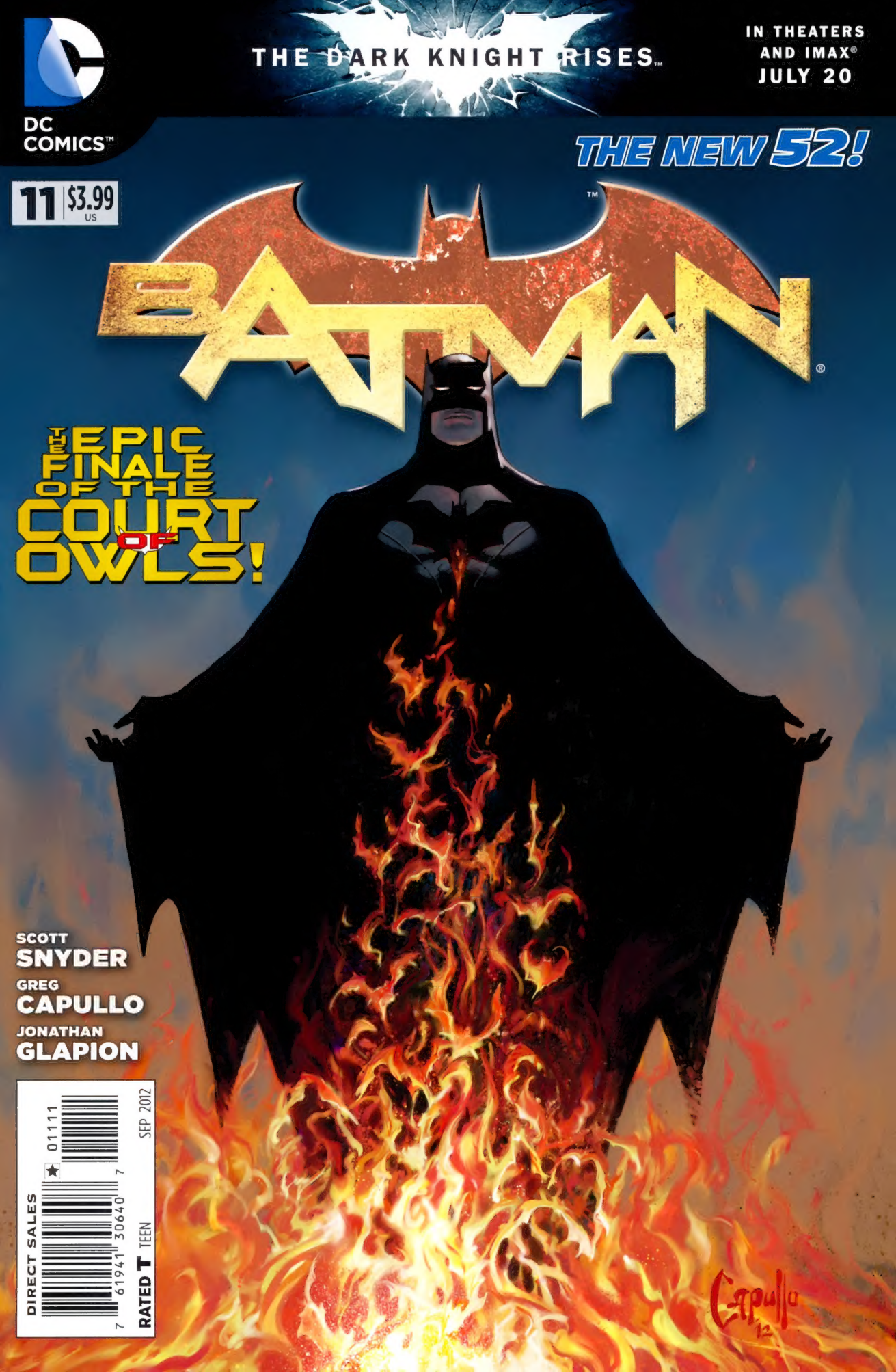
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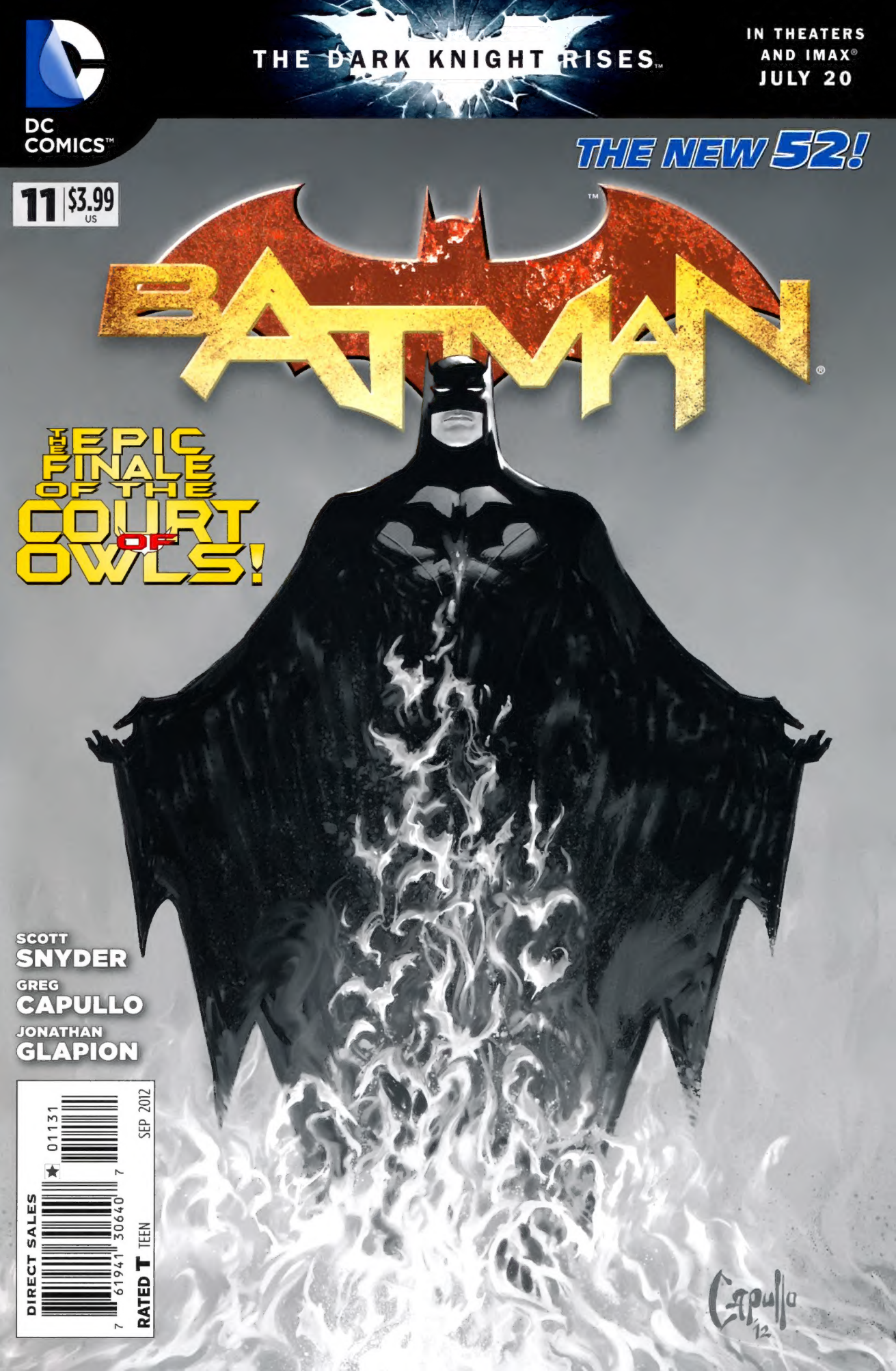
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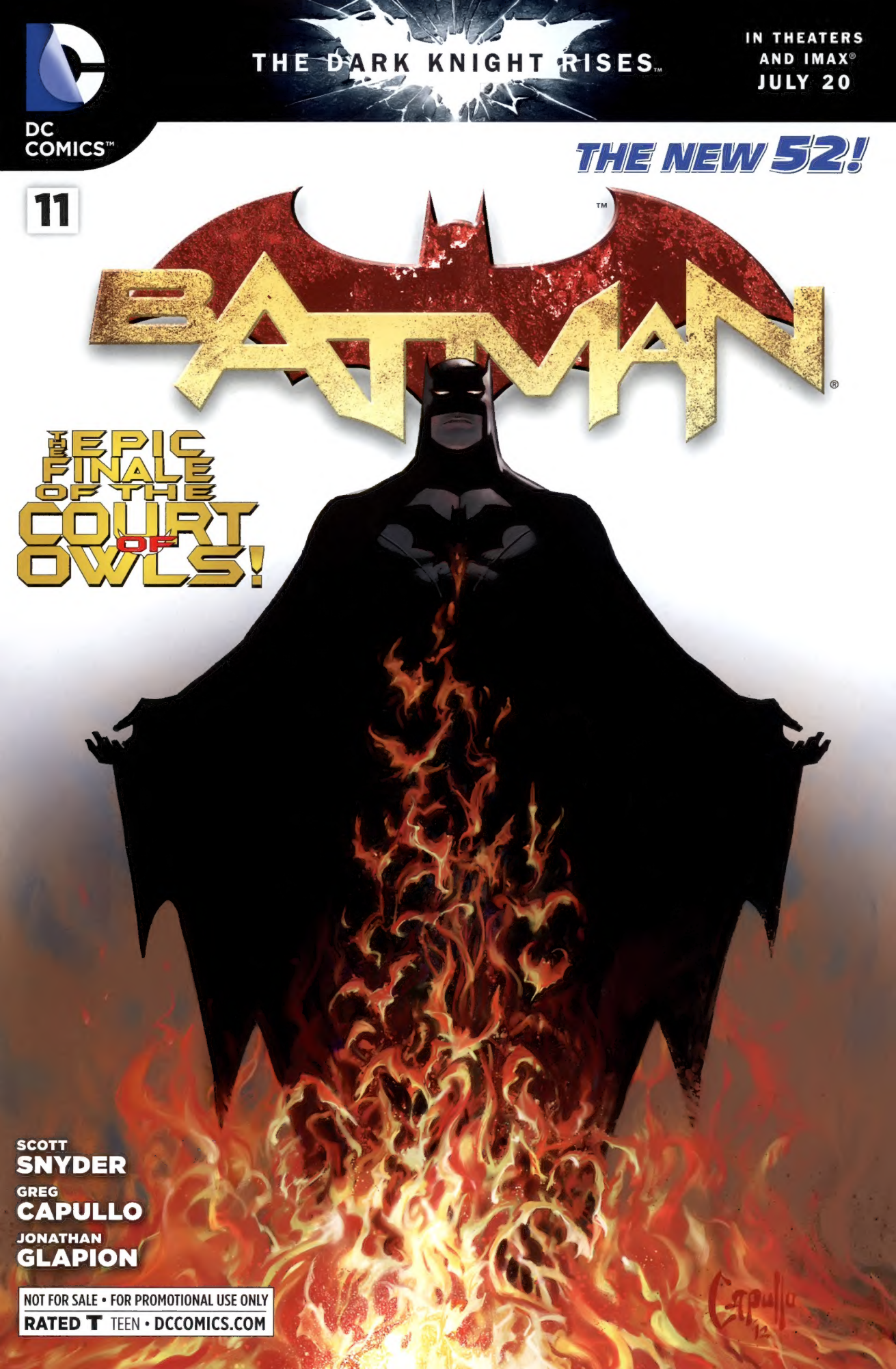

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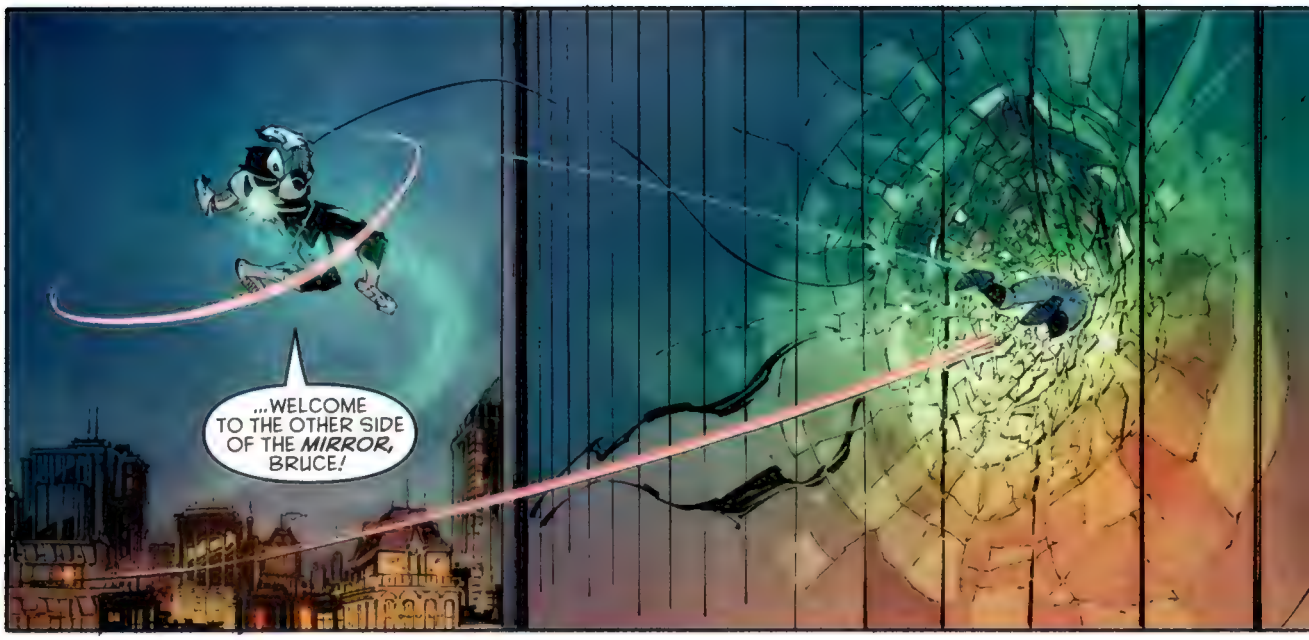
THAT ALL YOU GOT, BROTHER?
OR ARE YOU JUST PLAYING NICE?

YOU'RE NOT MY BROTHER.
YOU'RE A LUNATIC IN A BIRD SUIT...
...AND I WAS DONE PLAYING NICE...
...A LONG TIME AGO!
IS IT MY TURN NOW?
GOOD.

IT'S A STORY AS OLD AS *MAN*, BRUCE. TWO BROTHERS. SONS OF A FABLED LINE.
LIKE ROMULUS AND REMUS! ETEOCLES AND POLYNICES! BRUCE AND THOMAS, SONS OF GOTHAM. MEANT TO *SHARE THE CITY!*
SKINNT
BUT ONE BROTHER ALWAYS GETS *GREEDY* AND TAKES IT ALL IN THOSE STORIES, DOESN'T HE?
HE TAKES THE CITY FOR HIS OWN AND *FORGETS* HIS KIN.
LEAVES HIS FALLEN BROTHER TO *ROT*. JUST LIKE *YOU* DID.

WELL, THIS TIME THE STORY HAS A *TWIST ENDING,* BRUCE! BECAUSE THIS TIME THE FALLEN BROTHER *WINS* IN THE END!
ALL RIGHT, LINCOLN...
...YOU WANT TO BE MY FALLEN BROTHER SO BAD...
...THEN START FALLING!

YOU'VE HAD *YOUR* GOTHAM FOR SO LONG NOW...LET ME SHOW YOU *MINE!* THE CITY I KNEW, FROM MY BED AT *WILLOWWOOD!*
FIRST, THE *CROWNE TOWER!* NOTHING SPECIAL TO MOST PEOPLE, JUST AN OFFICE BUILDING!
BUT ON CLEAR DAYS, FROM MY BED, I COULD SEE *WAYNE INDUSTRIES* IN THE REFLECTION!
-KOFF- OKAY, YOU WANT TO SPEND A LITTLE MORE TIME TOGETHER FIRST? I'M GLAD! LET'S DO IT!
PFFT
UH-UH. NO WAY OFF THE TOUR BUS *NOW,* BROTHER!
TAKE A *CLOSE LOOK!* SEE THE KINGDOM AS I DID EVERY DAY, REVERSED AND UNNATURAL...


...WELCOME TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE *MIRROR,* BRUCE!

NOW LIVE AS *I* DID! RIGHT FROM THE START!
FEEL YOURSELF BEING *BORN AGAIN* AS ME IN THAT CAR CRASH. YOU'RE LIKE A BIRD DROPPED FROM THE NEST, SMASHED AWAKE!

NOW YOU'RE A CHILD, YOU'RE GROWING, BUT YOU'RE BROKEN. SOMETHING IS *WRONG.* YOU CAN'T MOVE, CAN'T TALK.
YOU CAN *SEE,* THOUGH, THROUGH THE BAREST OF SLITS BETWEEN YOUR EYELIDS...YOU *WATCH.*
EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE *ASLEEP* INSIDE. THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU TO *DIE...* EVERY DAY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO! BUT YOU DON'T...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE ALIVE IN THERE! YOU'RE *AWAKE!* YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU'RE SOMEONE! YOU *FEEL* IT!

WHO, THOUGH? *WHO?*
AND THERE'S THE WOMAN. SHE COMES OFTEN. SHE SITS ON YOUR BED. YOU KNOW SHE'S YOUR *MOTHER,* SHE'S THE *KEY!*
BUT YOU CAN'T CALL TO HER, CAN'T MOVE!

AND THEN ONE DAY, SHE'S ON THE TELEVISION IN YOUR ROOM. AND YOU *KNOW!*
A *REVELATION!* SUDDENLY YOU KNOW WHO YOU *ARE,* BECAUSE THE OWLS ARE THERE NOW, TOO. *WHISPERING* TO YOU AT NIGHT.
TELLING YOU WHAT YOU *ALREADY KNEW* ALL ALONG-- THAT YOU'RE *THOMAS WAYNE, JR.* A SON OF THE CITY!

YOUR PARENTS ARE GONE, BUT YOUR BROTHER! YOUR *BROTHER* IS STILL OUT THERE!
AND YOU THINK TO YOURSELF, *HE'LL* COME FOR ME, WON'T HE? HE'LL COME FOR ME...
YOU WAIT EVERY DAY, ALL DAY, THE OWLS WHISPERING AS THE HOUSE AROUND YOU GOES TO HELL.

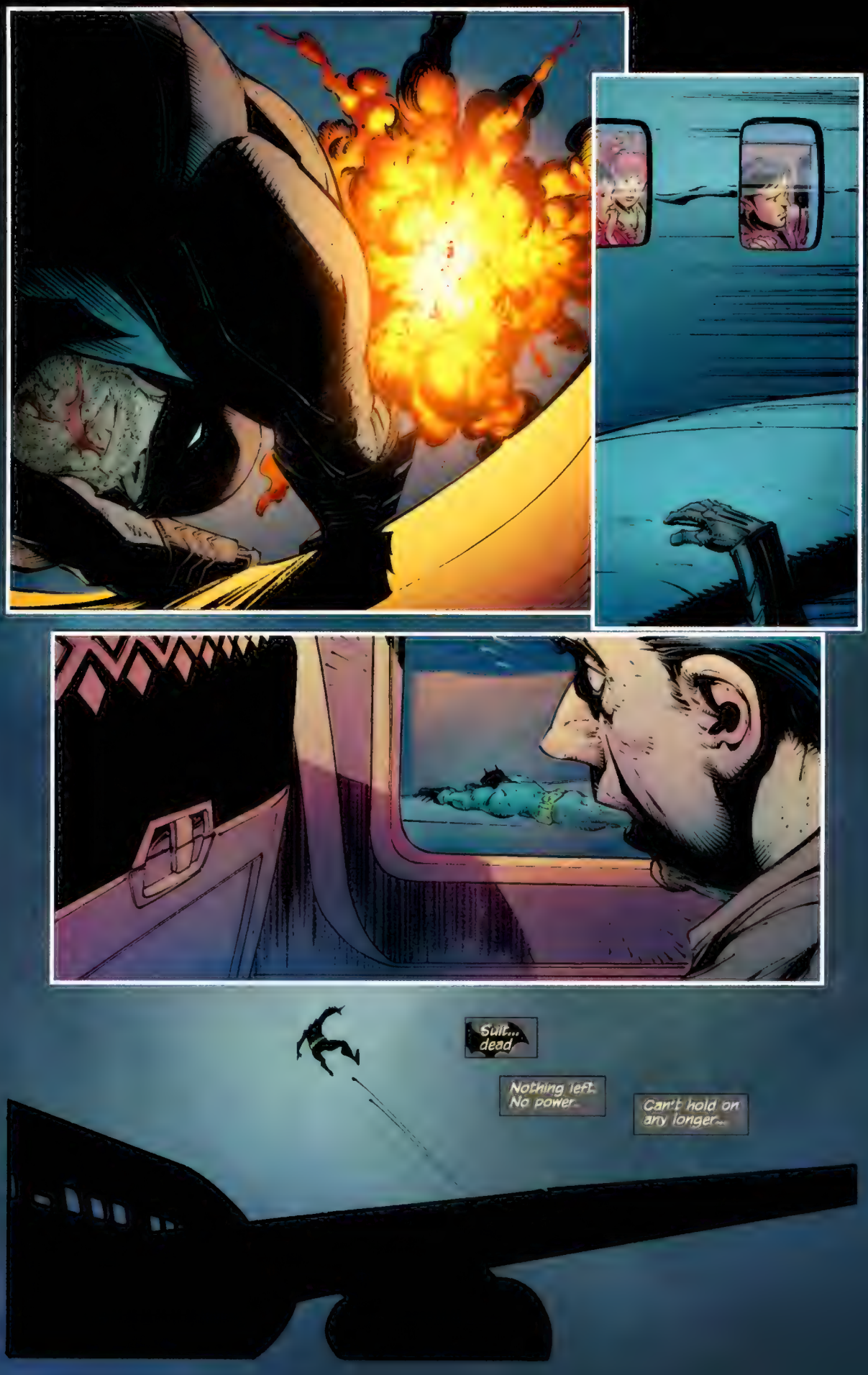
BUT HE DOESN'T COME. ONLY THE *OWLS* COME, AND SOON ENOUGH, THEY SAVE YOU FROM THAT PLACE, THEY START TO HELP YOU HEAL, FIX YOUR MIND.
STILL YOU WAIT FOR YOUR BROTHER... HE *MUST* REMEMBER YOU! YOU KNOW HE DOES! BUT ALL YOU HEAR IS THE TIME PASSING. THE BIG CHURCH BELL RINGING...
BONG! BONG! BONG!

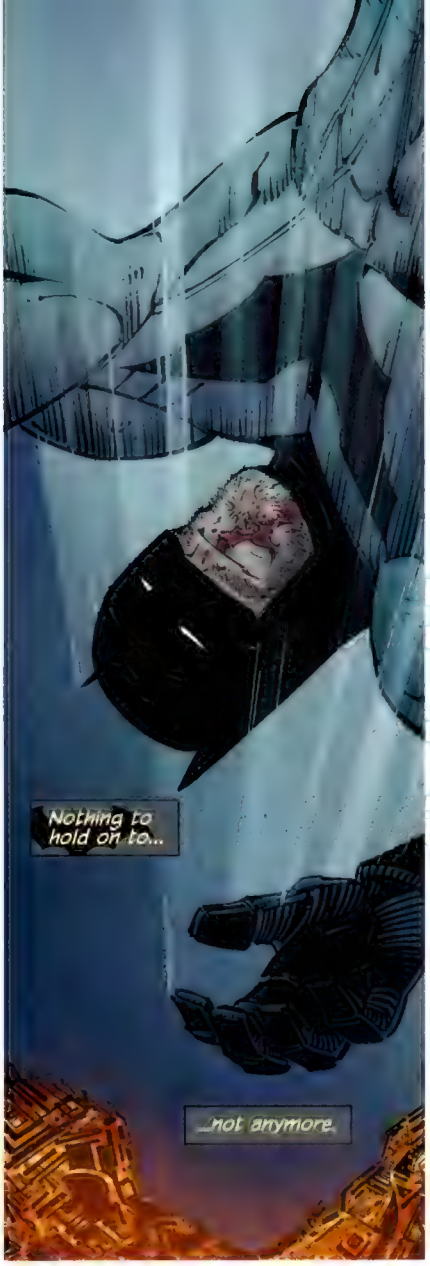
BONG

SO YOU FINALLY ACCEPT IT. YOU ACCEPT THAT YOUR BROTHER HAS FORCED YOU OUT OF HIS MIND SO HE CAN HAVE IT ALL--THE WHOLE CITY. AND YOU ACCEPT THAT THIS REVERSE CITY IS YOURS...
THE ONE YOUR BROTHER EXILED YOU TO, A PALE REFLECTION, A BACKWARDS CITY THAT PEOPLE ENTER BUT NEVER LEAVE. A GOTHAM THAT TRAPS YOU IN PLACE!
I MEAN THAT LITERALLY, BRUCE! SEE THE GOTHAM AIRPORT OVER THERE? THE RUNWAYS ARE ALL DIRECTED EAST FOR TAKE-OFF AND WEST FOR LANDING!
SO ALL DAY I HEARD PLANES COMING, NEVER LEAVING. NEVER EVER LEAVING...
AND SO ENDS OUR TOUR, BROTHER!
I'LL WATCH THE PIECES OF YOU COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE, SCATTERED OVER THE CITY YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW SO WELL...
...BUT DIDN'T KNOW AT ALL!

IT'S OKAY, BRUCE! YOU CAN *LET GO* NOW!
YOUR BROTHER IS WATCHING OVER YOU. JUST AS HE *ALWAYS* HAS.

YOU MUST HAVE FELT IT SOMETIMES, BRUCE-- THAT SENSATION OF *BEING WATCHED?*
WELL, THOSE WERE *MY EYES* YOU FELT. MY EYES WATCHING YOU DAY AND NIGHT, HATING YOU FOR NOT SEEING ME, FOR NOT LOOKING BACK! *HATING* YOU WITH EVERY FIBER IN MY BODY!
AND ALL THAT TIME YOU SPENT WATCHING OVER YOUR LITTLE KINGDOM, NOSE TO THE STREETS AND WINDOWS... ALL THAT TIME I WAS GETTING *BETTER, STRONGER* WITH THE OWLS, GETTING READY TO BECOME *THEIR KING!*
ALL THAT TIME YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOUR *OWN BACK!*
AND *YOU...*
...SHOULD TAKE YOUR OWN ADVICE.
HA! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO--
NO...

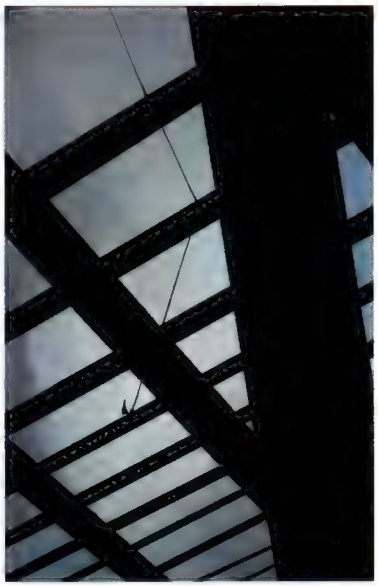

Suit... dead
Nothing left. No power.
Can't hold on any longer...


Nothing to hold on to...
...not anymore.

She looks so beautiful from up here.
Dick... you always liked taking the plane.
Seeing the city this way...
...I see why.
I try to let go...

...but even as I do...
...the city...
...she calls me back to her.
She saves me.
She reminds me...we still have work to do.

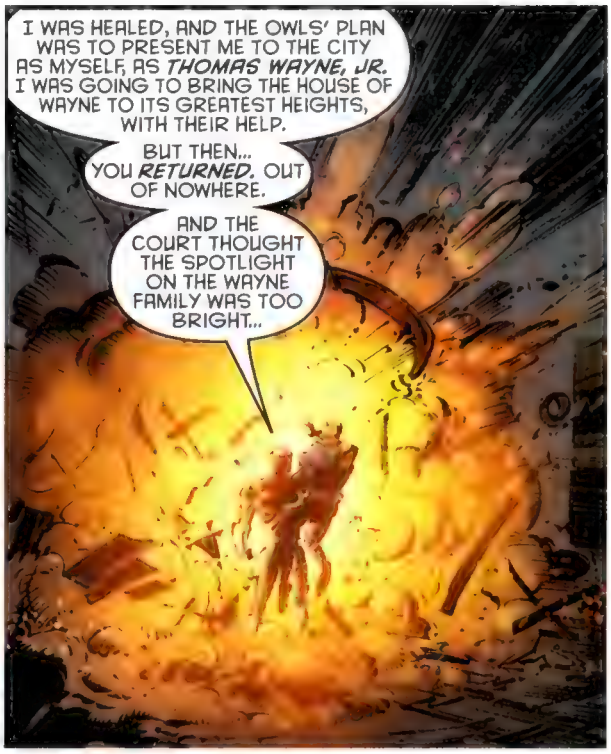
SWITCH TO HIGH VELOCITY BAT-ROPE, NOW!



UNH!
YOU JUST WON'T *STAY DEAD*--WILL YOU, BROTHER?

WELL, THIS TIME I'LL *MAKE SURE.*
THIS BUILDING, THE TOWER THAT WAS *SUPPOSED* TO BE THE CENTERPIECE OF YOUR LITTLE GOTHAM INITIATIVE? NOW IT'LL BE YOUR *TOMB.*
OUR TOMB FOR A MINUTE, THE WAYNE BROTHERS, BUT I'LL COME BACK.
THE COMPOUND IN MY BLOOD WILL MAKE SURE OF THAT. AND THIS TIME, *YOU'LL* BE THE ONE LEFT ALONE TO ROT. BURIED INSIDE YOUR OWN BROKEN BODY.
AND YOU'LL *STAY DEAD.* NOT LIKE ALL THE OTHER TIMES.
YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU CAME BACK, BRUCE? IT WAS BACK WHEN I'D JUST FINISHED HEALING UNDER THE OWLS' CARE.

YOU'D BEEN GONE FOR YEARS. YOU'D LEFT TO TRAVEL THE WORLD...
...AND YOU *DISAPPEARED.* THE COURT HAD SAID YOU DIED SOMEWHERE IN THE HIMALAYAS, OR THE BACK ALLEYS OF PARIS.


I WAS HEALED, AND THE OWLS' PLAN WAS TO PRESENT ME TO THE CITY AS MYSELF, AS *THOMAS WAYNE, JR.* I WAS GOING TO BRING THE HOUSE OF WAYNE TO ITS GREATEST HEIGHTS, WITH THEIR HELP.
BUT THEN... YOU *RETURNED.* OUT OF NOWHERE.
AND THE COURT THOUGHT THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE WAYNE FAMILY WAS TOO BRIGHT...

SO THEY CAME UP WITH *"LINCOLN MARCH."* A MAN I COULD BECOME TO RECLAIM THE CITY FOR THEM IN A DIFFERENT WAY. *"YOU'LL BE THE BEAK OF THE GREAT OWL,"* THEY SAID.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED, BRUCE. I WANTED THE CITY IN EARNEST. IT WAS *MY TIME.*
NOW I CAN *NEVER* HAVE IT. I KNOW THAT. BUT IF I CAN'T BE THIS CITY'S FUTURE, I'LL BE ITS *SECRET PAST...*

...I'LL BE THE PAST COME TO GET YOU. THE GOTHAM OF THE DEAD, THE *GHOST CITY.* ALL THE ONES YOU NEVER LOOKED BACK AT IN YOUR ARROGANCE. I'LL STAND FOR THEM.
SO DIE KNOWING THIS, BROTHER. YOU? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A *FOOTNOTE,* A *BLIP,* DESTINED TO BE *FORGOTTEN.*

ME, I *AM* GOTHAM'S HISTORY!

FINALLY :KOFF:...

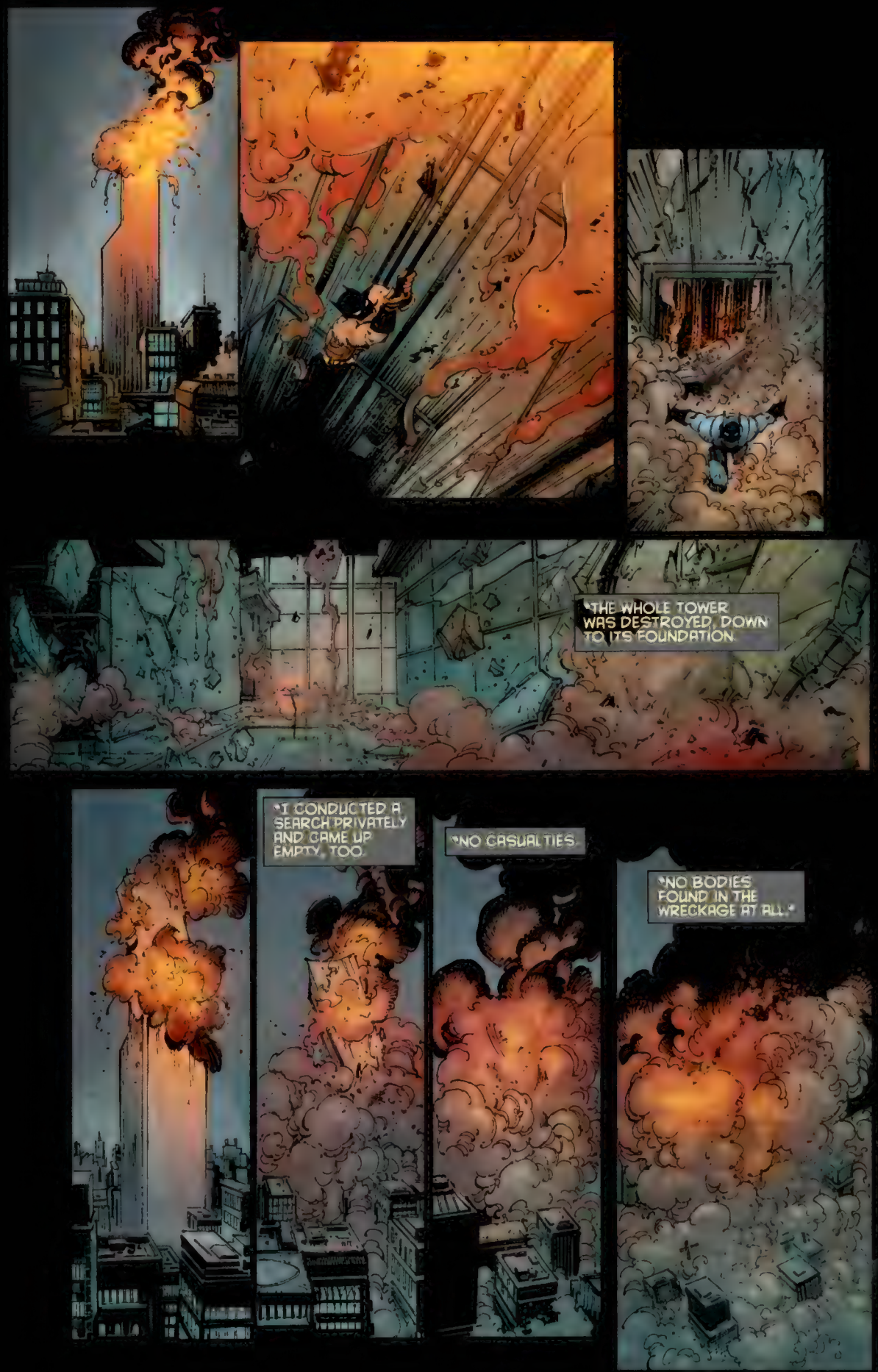
...SOMETHING WE *AGREE ON!*
AAGGH!

RUN, BRUCE! RUN FROM THE TRUTH!

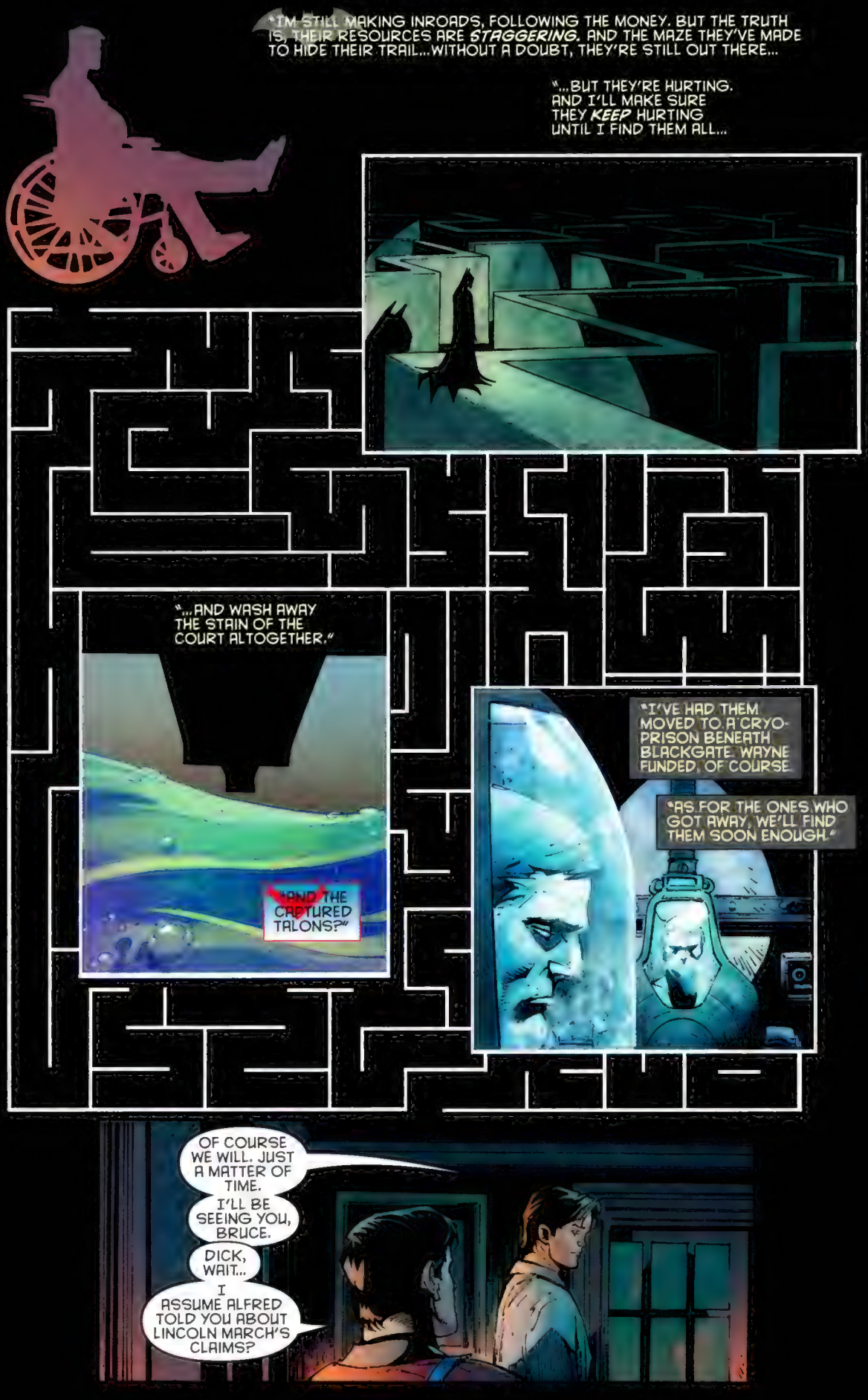
RUN LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE...

"...BUT WHEN YOU FEEL THAT PRICKLING ON THE BACK OF YOUR NECK, KNOW THAT I'M *COMING* FOR YOU!

"REACHING FOR YOU FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF *YOUR REFLECTION!*"


"THE WHOLE TOWER WAS DESTROYED, DOWN TO ITS FOUNDATION.
"I CONDUCTED A SEARCH PRIVATELY AND CAME UP EMPTY, TOO.
"NO CASUALTIES.
"NO BODIES FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE AT ALL."

NO, I'M JUST GLAD NO ONE WAS HURT.
WHAT?
HEH. YES, JIM. I'M TELLING YOU ALL THERE IS TO KNOW. THERE'S NO ONE I EXPECTED TO FIND UNDER THERE.
BRUCE?
I HAVE TO GO. ALL RIGHT.
I SNUCK IN BEFORE ALFRED COULD TELL ME YOU DON'T WANT COMPANY RIGHT NOW.
DON'T WORRY. I'M JUST HERE TO USE THE COMPUTER.
NO, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, DICK.
HUH.
WELL...YOU SHOULDN'T BE. I'VE PLANNED ON GETTING YOU BACK FOR THAT PUNCH AS SOON AS YOU WERE WELL.
AND HONESTLY, YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER THAN I EXPECTED...HOW ABOUT AN UPDATE FIRST, WHILE YOU CAN STILL TALK? THE COURT?


"I'M STILL MAKING INROADS, FOLLOWING THE MONEY. BUT THE TRUTH IS, THEIR RESOURCES ARE *STAGGERING.* AND THE MAZE THEY'VE MADE TO HIDE THEIR TRAIL... WITHOUT A DOUBT, THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE...
"...BUT THEY'RE HURTING. AND I'LL MAKE SURE THEY *KEEP* HURTING UNTIL I FIND THEM ALL...
"...AND WASH AWAY THE STAIN OF THE COURT ALTOGETHER."
"AND THE CAPTURED TALONS?"
"I'VE HAD THEM MOVED TO A CRYO-PRISON BENEATH BLACKGATE. WAYNE FUNDED, OF COURSE.
"AS FOR THE ONES WHO GOT AWAY, WE'LL FIND THEM SOON ENOUGH."
OF COURSE WE WILL. JUST A MATTER OF TIME.
I'LL BE SEEING YOU, BRUCE.
DICK, WAIT...
I ASSUME ALFRED TOLD YOU ABOUT LINCOLN MARCH'S CLAIMS?

HE DID. BUT WITH HOW THINGS HAVE BEEN BETWEEN US LATELY...HONESTLY, I DIDN'T WANT TO PRY.
NO. I'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW.
THERE *WAS* ANOTHER WAYNE CHILD...
...I WAS THREE WHEN MY MOTHER WAS PREGNANT WITH...HIM. WE WERE IN A CAR ACCIDENT TOGETHER. I DON'T...I DON'T REMEMBER THE ACCIDENT. BUT THERE'S A RECORD.
THE CHILD WAS BORN PREMATURE, WITH NEUROLOGICAL DAMAGE. SEVERE ENOUGH THAT HE WOULD HAVE REMAINED IN A PERMANENT VEGETATIVE STATE HAD HE LIVED THROUGH THE INITIAL TRAUMA.
HE DIDN'T LIVE, THOUGH?
HE DID...
...FOR A SINGLE NIGHT.

HOSPITAL RECORDS AT GOTHAM MERCY SUGGEST HE WAS BORN UNDER DURESS, NAMED, AND IMMEDIATELY INTUBATED.
HE DIED TWELVE HOURS LATER.
BUT FOR ONE NIGHT, HERE IN GOTHAM, I *DID* HAVE A BROTHER.
FORGIVE ME, BRUCE, BUT...PLAYING DEVILS' ADVOCATE, IS IT IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE THAT YOUR BROTHER--
SURVIVED THAT FIRST NIGHT AT MERCY? AND THAT AFTERWARDS MY PARENTS SECRETLY MOVED HIM TO WILLOWWOOD FOR TREATMENT? ARE YOU ASKING IF I THINK THEY COULD HAVE *FALSIFIED* THE RECORDS?
THEN THE ANSWER IS *NO.* I DON'T BELIEVE THEY COULD. I INVESTIGATED THE MERCY RECORDS FROM ALL ANGLES, AND THERE'S NO SIGN THEY WERE FALSIFIED.
GOOD. SO YOU HAVE YOUR ANSWER. AND YOU CAN MOVE ON.
I WAS *ALSO* ABLE TO DIG UP SOME OF THE ORIGINAL PENCIL AND PAPER RECORDS FROM WILLOWWOOD, AND THERE WAS A JOHN DOE, A BABY, ADMITTED ABOUT A WEEK AFTER THOMAS WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED.
THE RECORDS ALSO SHOW THAT MY MOTHER VISITED THE HOSPITAL OFTEN.
BUT SHE VISITED *EVERY* CHARITY SHE FUNDED OFTEN. THE HEART PIN COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN HONORARY.
ALL OF THIS IS EVIDENCE THE COURT WOULD HAVE USED TO *CONVINCE* LINCOLN HE WAS MY BROTHER.
BUT IN THE END, IF WHAT YOU'RE ASKING IS WHETHER IT'S POSSIBLE THAT LINCOLN'S STORY IS TRUE...
...ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WITHOUT HIS *DNA,* I CAN'T KNOW FOR SURE.
HELL, THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW IF LINCOLN'S CLAIM TO BE THOMAS WASN'T PART OF THE COURT'S PLAN. MAYBE THEY SACRIFICED SOME MEMBERS THEMSELVES AND PUT HIM UP TO IT. TO THROW ME OFF THEIR TRAIL, OR BUY TIME.
IT'S STILL A MYSTERY, FOR NOW.

AND YOU'RE ALL RIGHT WITH THAT?
NO. I'M NOT. BUT I SUPPOSE IN THIS CITY I *HAVE* TO BE.
WELL THAT'S VERY BIG OF Y--
UNTIL I FIND THAT EVIDENCE.
THE COURT OF OWLS TRIED TO UNDERMINE EVERYTHING I BELIEVE IN, BUT ONE THING THEY COULD NEVER MAKE ME QUESTION IS MY BELIEF IN MY PARENTS. IF THOMAS, JR. HAD LIVED PAST THAT ONE NIGHT, THEY'D HAVE *TOLD* ME.
THEY WOULD HAVE. I KNOW IT.
I BELIEVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE, BRUCE. BUT STILL...
IF THOMAS WAS NEVER SUPPOSED TO RECOVER, I MEAN IF IT WAS HOPELESS...
LOOK, ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT SOMETIMES, PROTECTING THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT FROM A PAINFUL TRUTH AND CARRYING IT AS A PRIVATE PAIN INSTEAD...I NOW SEE THAT IT CAN BE A *NOBLE* THING, YOU KNOW?
...
DICK, LISTEN. I KNOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD, FINDING OUT THAT YOU WERE MEANT TO BE A TALON, TO BE ONE OF THE OWLS.
WELL THANK YOU, B--
I'M NOT DONE.
I KNOW IT MIGHT SEEM LIKE I SAVED YOU FROM THAT DESTINY. BUT YOU COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ONE OF THEM. *NEVER.* THEY MIGHT HAVE SEEN SOMETHING IN YOU, BACK THEN. BUT SO DID I.
AND THE TRUTH IS, I DIDN'T SAVE YOU FROM SOME DARK FATE, THOSE YEARS AGO. YOU SAVED *ME* FROM ONE.
AND YOU STILL ARE SAVING ME, EVERY DAY.
...
SIGH DAMMIT, BRUCE. NOW I CAN'T HIT YOU. I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT SOME OTHER TIME. IT'S FINE, THOUGH. I'LL JUST SNEAK UP AND SURPRISE YOU.
YOU'LL TRY.

SO YOU GOING TO REBUILD?
THE TOWER? I AM. *TALLER.* IN FACT, I'M REDOUBLING MY EFFORTS WITH THE INITIATIVE.
WELL, IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT THE OWLS DIDN'T SCARE BRUCE WAYNE BACK INTO HIS CAVE.
THE OPPOSITE, ACTUALLY. IT'S STRANGE, DICK. LATELY, RIGHT UP UNTIL ALL THIS WITH THE COURT, I'D COME TO THINK OF THE CITY AS MINE. AS BATMAN'S.
EVEN WITH THE INITIATIVE, PART OF ME WAS DOING IT TO HAVE MORE LOOKOUTS. MORE BASES FOR BATMAN RATHER THAN FOR THE CITY ITSELF. BUT I SEE NOW THAT I WAS *WRONG.*
BECAUSE GOTHAM ISN'T BATMAN.
GOTHAM ISN'T THE OWLS.
GOTHAM IS...
GOTHAM IS *ALL* OF US.
IT'S A *LITTLE* BIT BATMAN. COME ON.
IN THE END, I HAVE TO SAY I'M GRATEFUL TO THE COURT OF OWLS FOR THE LESSON. BUT EVEN SO, IF THEY REEMERGE... *WHEN* THEY REEMERGE...

SCOTT SNYDER
writer

GREG CAPULLO
penciller

JONATHAN GLAPION
inker

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

FCO PLASCENCIA
colorist

RICHARD STARKINGS and COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT
lettering

BATMAN created by BOB KANE

KATIE KUBERT
assistant editor

MIKE MARTS
editor

GREG CAPULLO & FCO PLASCENCIA
cover

ANDY CLARKE & TOMEU MOREY
variant cover

Screeching metal, burning rubber and fire...followed by perfect blackness.
THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF WAYNE
CONCLUSION
WRITERS:
SCOTT SNYDER &
JAMES TYNION IV
ART:
RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
COLORS:
DAVE McCAIG
LETTERS:
DEZI SIENTY
ASSISTANT EDITOR:
KATIE KUBERT
EDITOR:
MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE
A blackness punctuated by the screams of the injured Martha Wayne...
...that's what I remember of that terrible night, Alfred.
The screams...and the blood. Mine, hers, Bruce's... on my face, my hands.
Oh, my boy... the blood.

Lady Martha had taken the brunt of the crash, shielding young Bruce from danger, and the trauma of the accident had caused the early birth, and loss, of her unborn child.
The days following the crash were the blackest...Martha was so consumed by sadness.
One night I actually overheard her whispering to Master Thomas as though their unborn son was still alive. When she saw me approach, she seemed horrified at her own words.
To honor their lost baby, and perhaps to expedite a healing, the Waynes planted a willow tree on the edge of the Wayne Cemetery...
...so he might look over the family for generations to come.
But the tree brought no closure for any of us. And so Master Thomas decided it would be best if they left the country for the summer. So they might heal away from the city.
As I helped him pack his belongings, I wished deep in my heart that I could simply forget the trauma of these days like young Master Bruce...
...that I could reclaim the sheer joy of life I had experienced just a few short months ago.
But the back of my mind itched with the original threat that sent us out on the road that fateful afternoon.

And when the phone rang a second time this evening, I knew who would be on the line.
BBBRIIINNG
BBRING
YOU DIDN'T GO WHERE WE TOLD YOU, MR. PENNYWORTH, BUT WE STILL TOOK WHAT WE WANTED... THE SCHOOL IS GONE, AND A LITTLE WAYNE, TOO... HEH...
NOW THAT OUR LARGER WORK IS DONE, THE EYES OF THE OWLS HAVE TURNED TOWARD YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
JARVIS PENNYWORTH... WE ARE A POWERFUL ENEMY TO HAVE IN GOTHAM. NOT JUST FOR YOU, BUT FOR THOSE YOU LOVE. YOUR OWN FAMILY. YOUR SON... ALFRED...
YOU... YOU LEAVE MY SON ALONE, YOU MONSTERS! YOU HEAR ME?!
WE WATCH YOU AT YOUR HEARTH, WE WATCH YOU IN YOUR BED...

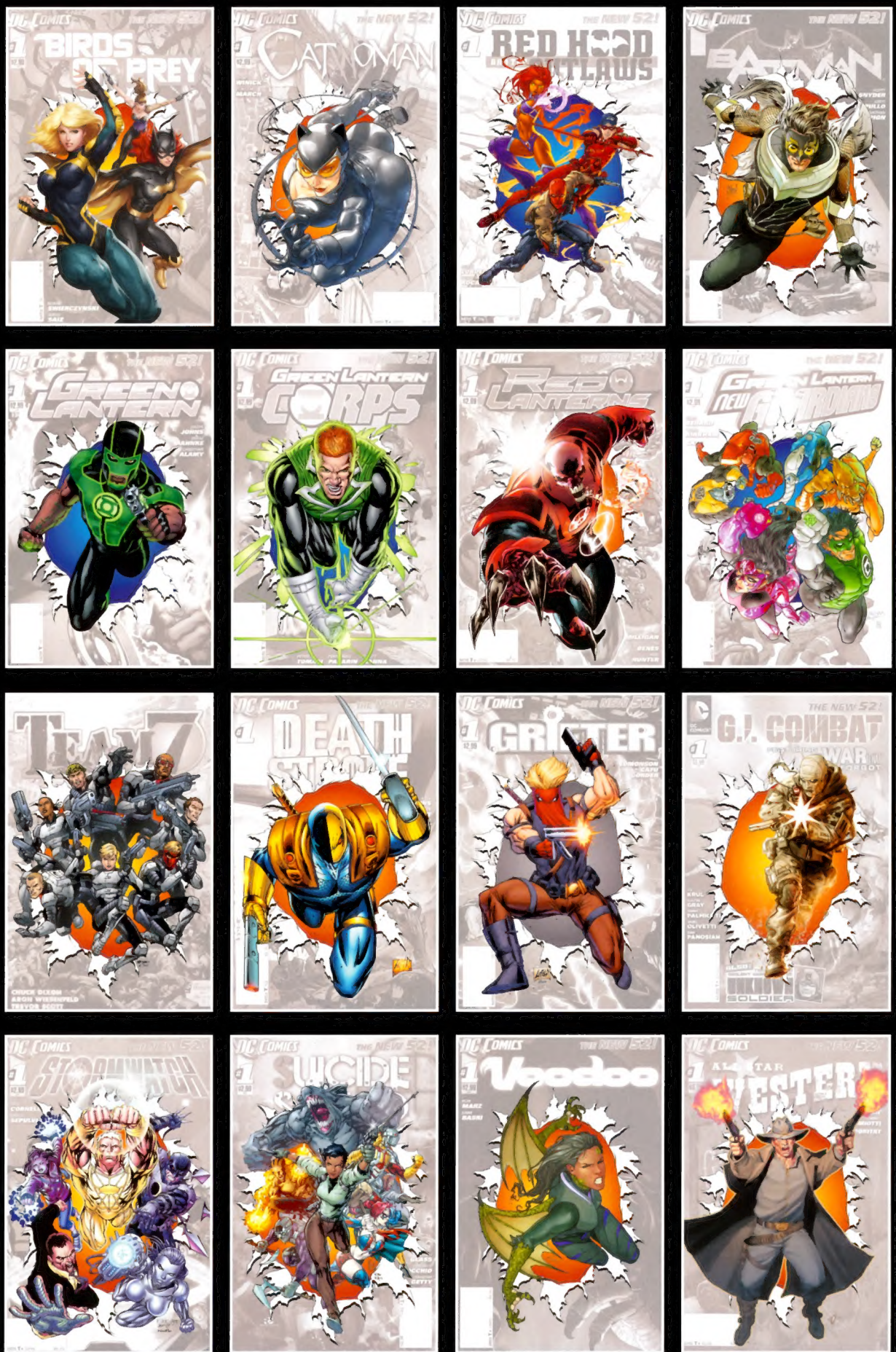
Tonight, Alfred, the shadows haunting Wayne Manor have come for me.
My goal--my only goal--is to reach you, my dear Son. And hold you again. But...
...should we never meet again in this lifetime, remember these simple truths.
Remember my love for you. Forgive me for all my many fatherly sins and know I tried my hardest to create a better life for you.
And remember, please, to fear Gotham City. Never visit, even in the event of my passing. This is a cursed place, a place that tricks you into loving it, into hoping... and the Wayne grounds, they are the most unholy of all. These lovely grounds...
...but I must hurry. I trust that if I should die, this warning will reach you and keep you safe from harm.
FOR ALFRED
With deep love and regret,
Your father
Jarvis Pennyw...

PRESENT DAY...
JARVIS
PENNYWORTH
THE FLOWERS ARE BEAUTIFUL, ALFRED. I'M SURE YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE LOVED THEM.
I'M NOT SURE HE WOULD. HE NEVER DID HAVE TIME FOR MY LITTLE ECCENTRICITIES...ACTING, BOTANY...HE WAS ALWAYS PESTERING ME TO TAKE UP A TRADE MORE *SENSIBLE* FOR MY UPCOMING LIFE HERE AT THE MANOR.
AS IF *ANYTHING* COULD HAVE PREPARED ME FOR MY LIFE THESE PAST YEARS...CERTAINLY NOT MY FATHER, NO MATTER WHAT SHAPE HIS DEATH ACTUALLY TOOK.
SO THIS IS ABOUT MY FINDING THE *PENNYWORTH NAME* IN THE OWLS' LABYRINTH.
WE CAN LEARN THE TRUTH, ALFRED. UNEARTH THE BODY AND DETERMINE THE *REAL* CAUSE OF DEATH...
THIS ISN'T ABOUT CAUSE OF DEATH, MASTER BRUCE.
I WON'T DENY THERE'S A SPECTER OF DESIGN TO THE DISCOVERIES OF THESE LAST FEW WEEKS. THE REEMERGENCE OF MY FATHER'S NAME...

....A MAN WHO DIED VIOLENTLY A FEW WEEKS AFTER YOUR MOTHER MISCARRIED THE BROTHER YOU NEVER KNEW YOU LOST.
WHICH IS WHY I THINK IT'S *OUR RESPONSIBILITY* TO ACT.
WE *ARE* ACTING. EACH IN OUR OWN WAY.
I REMEMBER THE CLOUD OF DARKNESS WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS PLACE...AT THE TIME, I TRULY FELT THAT THE MANOR WAS CURSED. SOMEHOW *HAUNTED.*
I SUPPOSE IT *WAS*, IN A WAY. I IMAGINE THE ACCIDENT WOULD HAVE LOOMED LARGE DURING YOUR FIRST YEAR.
IT WAS MORE THAN THAT...DID YOU KNOW I NEVER CAME TO VISIT MY FATHER HERE? I BARELY KNEW HIM WHEN HE DIED.
AND YET, IN THOSE EARLY YEARS, I FELT HIM HOVERING OVER ME. LIKE A FORCE TRYING TO IMPART SOMETHING. BUT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO BUT TRY TO LIVE UP TO THE MAN HE WANTED ME TO BE.
MY POINT, MASTER BRUCE, IS THAT I'VE ALREADY SPENT A LIFETIME TRYING TO DIG UP A SENSE OF WHO MY FATHER WAS.
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO LITERALIZE THE PROCESS.
IF THE COURT OF OWLS HAD *ANYTHING* TO DO WITH MY FATHER'S DEATH, YOUR ACTIONS THESE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN TRIBUTE ENOUGH.

WE COULD KNOW FOR *SURE*, ALFRED...
BUT THAT'S JUST IT, MASTER BRUCE. I ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY FATHER.
JUST AS YOU DO ABOUT YOUR DECEASED BROTHER AND THE OUTLANDISH CLAIMS OF LINCOLN MARCH.
YOU KNOW I'LL FIND LINCOLN, ALFRED. I WILL FIND THE *TRUTH*.
YOU'LL FIND THE *FACTS*.
THE *TRUTH* IS THAT EVEN IF YOU AND LINCOLN SHARE THE SAME BLOOD, YOU STILL LOST YOUR BROTHER IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHEN YOU WERE JUST A BOY.
2012.
I KNOW YOU'LL DO WHAT YOU MUST, WHEN THE TIME ARISES.
BUT FOR NOW THE SPECTERS OF THESE LONG LOST KIN DESERVE TO REST...
...UNDISTURBED.
THE END

One year ago this September we launched **DC Comics – The New 52**, gaining considerable acclaim while changing the rules of the game. To thank our fans for all the amazing support this past year, we promise that DC will continue to evolve and innovate, and we promise that every September will introduce something major to entertain you. With that in mind, we're introducing **all-new #0 issues for our books in September.** With a focus on revealing the secret past of The New 52 but also firmly looking at the future, these issues will set the stage for what we expect to be an incredible second year for The New 52. Here now are some of the covers for the month. There are a lot of new faces in these images, so look closely and meet us back here in September to find out what happens next!


DC COMICS
THE NEW 52!
BIRDS OF PREY
CATWOMAN
RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS
BATMAN
GREEN LANTERN
GREEN LANTERN CORPS
RED LANTERNS
GREEN LANTERN NEW GUARDIANS
TEEN TITANS
DEATHSTROKE
GRIFTER
G.I. COMBAT
STORMWATCH
SUICIDE SQUAD
VOODOO
ALL-STAR WESTERN

It's the most wonderful time of year!

That's right, fans – it's time for San Diego Comic-Con! From Preview Night on Wednesday, July 11th through Sunday, July 15th we will be in full force at the San Diego Convention Center! We've got all the news on Before Watchmen and September's #0 issues, plus a new booth and a big announcement from our friends at Vertigo!

But what if you can't make it to the show? No worries – DC Entertainment has you covered with our amazing "Con Away From Con" coverage at DCComics.com! We'll be recruiting fans to ask questions directly of our guests, so be on the lookout for #ASKDCCOMICS. And be sure to check the site frequently during the show as we'll be posting exclusive video, behind-the-scenes news and all the updates you could need. We've posted our panel times and locations for you down below.

See you in San Diego!

Thursday, July 12

10:30–11:30	DC Entertainment Talent Search Room 4
11:30–12:30	DC Comics – Tales from The Dark and The Edge Room 6DE
1:00–2:00	DC Collectibles Room 5AB
2:00–3:00	DC Comics – Batman: Beyond the Night of Owls Room 6DE
3:15–4:15	DC Entertainment – All Access: DC NOW! Room 6DE
5:45–6:45	Vertigo: A View from the Cutting Edge of Comics Room 6DE

Friday, July 13

10:00–11:00	DC Comics: From Concept to Page Room 6DE
10:00–11:00	DC Entertainment Talent Search Room 4
11:15–12:15	DC Comics: Superman Room 6DE
1:45–2:45	DC Comics: Justice League and Green Lantern Room 6DE
3:00–4:00	Drawing DC Room 11AB
4:15–5:15	DC Comics: The New 52 Room 6DE
5:30–6:30	Vertigo: Get Jiro! Room 6DE

Saturday, July 14

10:00–11:00	DC Entertainment Talent Search Room 4
10:00–11:00	DC Comics: New Wave Room 6DE
11:15–12:30	DC Entertainment – All Access: OGNs Room 6DE
12:45–1:45	DC Comics: Before Watchmen Room 6DE
2:00–3:00	Mad About MAD Room 9
7:00–8:00	Vertigo: Fables Room 6DE

Sunday, July 15

10:00–11:00	DC Comics: Young Justice Room 6DE
11:15–12:15	DC Entertainment: Meet the Publishers Room 6DE
2:00–3:00	Drawing DC for Kids Room 11AB

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